

Chapter 21

Progressivism

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What is Progressivism? What were some of their key goals?

- Progressivism is a reform movement that sets out to cleanse and reinvigorate an America whose politics and society they thought were in decline
- Some of the key goals include:
 - Getting rid of political corruption
 - Reducing the power of the trusts
 - Fighting prostitution, gambling, and drinking
 - Create activist governments that would be able to correct all wrongs of society
 - *creates the questions—how big should the gov't be?



Who were Progressives? Describe the religious division among progressives and how that might affect their activism.

- Progressives were typically young, middle class, Protestants, belief in social action concerned with immorality and corruption and the growing gap b/w rich and poor
- Most progressives come from religious families who expected religious life for their children
 - Some lost this religious zeal, but remained determined to help others.
 - Some maintained religion and carried it over to their progressivism (ie. William Jennings Bryan, Walter Rauschenbusch)



What is a muckraker? Give a few examples of muckrakers and identify the issue they were highlighting.

- A muckraker is an author who uses scandalous stories in an attempt to bring certain issues to public attention.
- Ida Tarbell—Standard Oil Company
- George Kibbe Turner—prostitution and deterioration of families in ethnic ghettos
- Upton Sinclair—lives of immigrant workers



What are some reasons for the huge growth in magazine and newspaper circulation? What are some of the effects that this had?

- Expanded literacy and mandatory schooling encourage many to read
- These items were cheap entertainment and could be passed around
- Further increased assimilation to American society and continued to raise literacy rates
- Gave people more knowledge and information about the world outside their immediate circle
- Created competition to draw as many readers as possible



Explain the relationship between progressivism and realism.

- Realism is the when a person values the detached and objective study of a situation, issue or problem.
- Progressivism embraced this as a more scientific (less emotional) approach to fixing some of major problems of the time
 - Also allowed many to create a barrier to protect themselves from emotional overload
- Realism stories often fueled investigation of issue—could be taken more seriously than an emotional narrative



Explain the purpose of settlement houses like Hull House. What services did they provide?

- Settlement houses were intended as safe havens for (mainly women and children) urban residents—usually new arrivals
- They provided a wide array of services:
 - Nursery for children of working moms, savings bank, employment bureau, baby clinic, playground, social club, reading club, food, emergency shelter, legal advice



List some women involved with the settlement houses and their accomplishments.

- Jane Addams—suffragist, fought child labor, helped found the NAACP
- Florence Kelley—1st factory law, no child labor, limited workday of women to 8 hours
- Julia Lathrop—improvements in care of handicapped and delinquent
- Alice Hamilton—pioneer in public health



How were settlement house workers different from muckrakers? How did this affect their outlook?

- Settlement workers dealt directly with the people, they became involved
 - There was no emotional detachment
- Muckrakers were trying to be objective, aloof—so they could be as realist as possible
 - This providing them with emotional separation
- Therefore, muckrakers tended to not be as sympathetic, they did not see any positives to political machines (as did SH workers), they also did not appreciate or understand cultural tendencies that would influence decisions made by immigrants



How was the Mann Act (1910) a reflection of cultural conservatism?

- Some reformers, like Jane Addams, fought feminist ideas of sexual freedom
 - Views on sexuality and alcoholism typically identified conservatism
- Addams (and others like her) saw women relying on prostitution (what she saw as interpretation of sexual freedom) to get out of wage labor
- Mann Act made it illegal to transport women across state lines for 'immoral' purposes



How were women using 'typical female concerns' to address public issues?

- Either through settlement houses or clubs women began to work together to address issues of education (expansion and improvement of), children (libraries, playgrounds), safety (fire and sanitation codes for tenement buildings)
- These areas of concern were seen as an extension of the "separate sphere" of women & therefore, acceptable for them to work for changes



What led some progressives to accept socialism? Who (which groups, in general) would support socialism and the IWW?

- Socialism stood for the transfer of control over industry from few individuals to the masses
- Some progressives believed this was necessary in order that the elites were not able to control society
- Share the wealth always appeals to those facing hard times
 - Those who were in poor paying labor intensive jobs were more likely to support socialism and the IWW
 - Miners, those in lumber industry and farmers



How did Socialism both repel and attract progressives?

- Both progressives and socialists want to fight:
 - unregulated capitalism and excessive wealth
 - For economic and political reforms
- However many progressives simply want to change/fix current government and economic system not do away with it entirely
 - Many progressives shied away from the violence and revolution preached by socialist groups like the IWW
- many progressives did not think it wise to turn over all economic power to the masses



What was the first progressive reform battle over? Due to the political connections of the municipal companies, how did progressives intend to change this situation?

- Progressives first took on the privately owned municipal transportation networks and utility companies
 - These companies were usually awarded the contracts based on the bribes given to politicians rather than the bids they submitted
 - These contracts allowed them to charge high rates
- Due to the political connections of these companies, reformers decided to go after the political parties that gave the contracts
 - They do this by going to the state for emergency declarations that allow them to change the format of city gov't




Compare the commission plan to the city manager plan. How did the shift to these new systems negatively affect the poor and/or minority voters?

- City commission elected five city commissioners, each responsible for specific departments (fire, finances, transportation...etc)
- City Manager elected commissioners who appointed a manager to ensure no outside influence interfered with gov't
- Both intended to use corporate models for efficiency and management
- Negative effect for poor and/or minority voters reduced their ability to run as now need to finance a city wide campaign, instead of 'ward' campaign
- Also reduced amount of help that could be sought from political machines in exchange for their vote—no longer relied upon for victory



In what ways did progressives take on state government?

- Need to tackle power held by political parties if expecting to make any major changes
 - Direct primary—voters chose candidates instead of political parties (1st used in Mississippi, and Wisconsin)
 - 17th Amendment—direct senate elections
 - Initiative—reforms could put legislative proposals to voters in general election without going through state legislature
 - Referendum—gave voters the right in a general election to repeal unpopular acts that state legislature had enacted
 - Recall—allowed voters to remove from office any public servant before their term is up
 - Also began the monitoring of campaign contributions and restrictions of lobbyists.
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In what ways did progressives seek to change the electorate?

- To ensure that the electors were worthy of such a task, many progressives felt a need to demonstrate its importance by making it harder to do so
- Extended right to women, created laws to bar minority/poor
- Government control of the polls (rather than political parties)
- Private voting—Australian ballot
- Registration laws—register at specific office; show identification, required residency and intervals between registration and voting
- Laws prohibited immigrants from voting until citizens,
 - While simultaneously making it harder to become a citizen
- Particularly in the South laws aimed at restricting the African American from voting
 - Literacy tests, poll tax and property qualifications

What was the primary message of Walter Lippman's Drift and Mastery?

- His primary message was that the social and industrial changes at the time were so extreme that they were overwhelming the people and thereby making it difficult for many to make use of responsibility of voting



How did the new suffragists differ from the old suffragists?
How valid were predictions that women suffrage would radically alter politics? Explain your answer.

- New suffragists actually played down feminist ideas (old suffragists—equality of the sexes) and promoted qualities women were stereotypically noted for
 - Women would bring moral sense and compassion to the voting realm.
- Women did not have the massive impact on politics that was predicted.
- In fact voter turnout for women is still lower than men



Why was Wisconsin often seen as a model of progressive reform?

- Led by Robert LaFollette—reformers of this state make massive changes including:
 - Direct primary
 - Railroad tax laws
 - civil service laws (competence laws)
 - Laws to regulate railroads and utility rates
 - 1st state income tax
 - Workmen's compensation laws
 - Work hour limits
 - Child labor restrictions
 - Minimum wages for women



Why was New York seen as the other major progressive model?

- Under Charles Evan Hughes—massive reforms, however they take a different tone
 - Opposed prohibition, city commissions and voter registration laws—as unfair to minorities and immigrants
 - Public service commission to regulate railroads and utility companies
 - Factory Investigating Committee—labor and social welfare
 - Supported minimum wage
 - Improvement of working and living conditions for urban poor
 - Factory safety
 - Workmen's compensation
 - Right to unionize
 - Regulation of corporations



What were some demands made by W. E. B. DuBois and other at Niagara Falls (what becomes known as the Niagara movement)?

- Regain the right to vote
- Abolish segregation
- Remove barriers to black advancement
- Revive the more militancy feeling of the abolition movement



What was the purpose of the Legal Redress Committee? What successes did they have?

- The purpose of this committee was to initiate lawsuits against city and state government for violating constitutional rights of African Americans
- 1915—US. Supreme Court ruled that Oklahoma and Maryland could not use 'grandfather clauses' in their original constitutions to ignore the 15th Amendment
- 1917—U.S Supreme Court ruled that the law in Louisville Kentucky requiring all blacks to live in certain areas of the city was unconstitutional



How were the NAACP and the National Urban League different in purpose?

- Purpose of the NAACP was to fight discrimination and prejudice
- NUL specifically wanted to improve economic and social conditions of black in the cities



What are some progressive steps taken by Theodore Roosevelt?

- Staying in line with the progressive theory of expanding gov't to fix the wrongs of society, TR will expand the presidency making him what many call the 1st modern president
- Regulating trusts—had Justice Department sue Northern Securities Company for violating Sherman Antitrust Act (prior to this suit, this law had been used to break up unions)
- Ordered arbitration to end the 1902 coal strike
- Had dinner with Booker T. Washington at the White House
- Extended the gov't regulation of economic affairs
 - Hepburn Act—protect the public from fraudulently marketed and dangerous food and medication
- Extended the gov't control over the physical environment
 - National Park Service
 - Resource Management



Why did some argue that Theodore Roosevelt's actions actually benefited big business more than the people?

- The new laws and regulations often were too costly for the small businesses and thereby favored big business by eliminating their competition



What did William Taft do as president?

- Signed into law the Payne-Aldrich Tariff
 - Put in a corporate income tax
 - Did not reduce tariff though
- Ballinger-Pinchot
 - Secretary of Interior (Ballinger) appointed by Taft had corruption brought to light by Pinchot—Roosevelt's guy
 - Taft stands behind Ballinger, TR (from Africa) defends Pinchot
 - Does sue twice as many trusts as TR
 - Puts additional land under national protection



After refusing to seek reelection in 1908, and supporting Taft for the presidency job, why does Roosevelt run for president in 1912?

- TR had made a promise in 1904 not to run, plus he felt that the Republican Party would not really back his reelection
- He thought Taft would continue the job that Roosevelt started and simultaneously be able to 'guide' him
- Roosevelt however, by 1912 having a bit of limelight withdraw & not happy with Taft's more mild approach to progressivism



What are some progressive steps taken by Woodrow Wilson?

- As progressive, continues to expand power and scope of progressive in an attempt to fix the wrongs of society
- Underwood-Simmons Tariff
 - Reduce tariffs by ~15%
- Graduated income tax
- Federal Reserve Act
 - 12 regional banks controlled by private banks in region
 - Every private bank was required to deposit 6% in regional Federal bank
 - Reserve would make loans to member banks and issue currency
- Federal Trade Commission
 - Collect information on corporate pricing policies, cooperation and competition



Explain New Freedom and New Nationalism.
What did Wilson do that demonstrated New Nationalism and more than New Freedom?

- New Freedom—Wilson—give gov't the power to dismantle trusts
- New Nationalism—Roosevelt—give gov't the power to regulate the trusts and, if necessary, punish abuses of power
- Wilson will move more towards regulation through FTC and by not backing the Clayton Antitrust Act--



What are some steps taken by Wilson to try to ensure his reelection?

- Will temper his initially held more progressive viewpoint—no longer trying to dismantle trusts—ensures that corporate bigwigs won't hate him
- Appointed 1st Jewish man to Supreme Court—Louis Brandeis
 - Does alienate some with this but simultaneously gets him immigrant votes
- Kern-McGillicuddy Act—1st federal workmen's comp law
- Keating-Owen Act—1st federal law outlawing child labor
- Adamson Act—8 hour workday

